



Kings Langley School

Headteacher Mr David Fisher BSc (Hons) NPQH

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Dear Parents

We come to the end of our academic year, it is an opportunity to reflect back and update on next steps in our progress as a school.

Firstly, thank you to all of our parent community for their support and efforts this academic year of both your child/ren and the school. The partnership between the three key stakeholders has never been more important since the pandemic and as such it has been wonderful this year to continue to reconnect through the many events the school has offered whether that is reading evenings, theatre trips, sporting events, concerts/performances or even impromptu meetings in the mornings whilst you are dropping off students. You are a great bunch of parents and I hope we can continue to strengthen the bond again in September. Thank you!

Activities Week:

It has been another busy week of end of term activities whether that be international, residential or in school experiences, the students and staff have been amazing as always. A huge thank you to all the staff who have given up their time this week to develop the cultural capital of our students and to those staff who have been heavily involved in the planning of the week. At the end of every year, we always receive lovely feedback on our students conduct and the feedback below highlights it perfectly, well done students!

"We returned from Lyon last night and took the same flight as your school party. As a retired Deputy Headmaster of Salesian College in Farnborough, I feel that I have to write to you in order to say how impressed I was by the behaviour of your students. It is of great credit to your school and your staff that their manner and demeanour was outstanding at all times. I know from experience that supervising a large group in a foreign airport can always be a challenge, but it is clear your staff obviously have an excellent relationship with their students.

I hope this reaches you today on your busy last day of term, and I wish you all a great Summer Break."

The key member of staff behind our activity's week is Mrs Jennings and I know she will be enjoying a well deserved break tonight following all her work this week and over the year to make it all come together.

Sixth Form Centre Building Works:

Parents dropping off each morning and those reading our newsletters will know we are progressing well with our state of the art Sixth Form Centre. Rendering has taken place this week and the contractors have been busy internally to ensure we have this open for GCSE results day. The students who have been for a visit to the centre have been incredibly impressed with what the centre offers them, and we are excited to open this to students formally in September. The final landscaping will take place towards the end of September which is the best time for the plants to establish following any dry spells over August.

3G Sport England Approved Pitch:

We are getting an all-weather pitch!

I am delighted to confirm that once we have completed the building project 1 (Sixth Form Centre) in August, we start our second project of our infrastructure developments to ensure our students have world class facilities to learn within. The final piece of the jigsaw puzzle came in from Sport England this week and as such building work will now start. The 3G pitch project will further enhance our sporting facilities for not only the school but for our community. If you have not done so already, please can I ask parents to support us financially. So far, we have only raised £430 and really need your support on this, please use the link below to support your school and community:

[Kings Langley School 3G Football Pitch - JustGiving](#)

Staffing:

Parents will see in the news the significant issues faced in schools for recruitment and retention due to a variety of factors. However, we have worked extremely hard and used all means to ensure we are fully staffed for September with qualified teachers and specialists in their subject areas along with strong support staff.

We are sad to have staff leaving us this year for a variety of reasons and below I have tried to outline them to highlight how they link to the national picture with one member of staff who is moving north stating “if you could move the school to the north, I would be staying, I love it here”.

We see the following staff leaving and, in some cases, leaving the profession:

Miss Phillimore is moving to Ireland with her partner and is going back into costume design, Miss Howley is moving with Mr Easthorpe to Matlock and is moving into employment in publishing with Mr Easthorpe gaining promotion to Head of Humanities. Mr Morgan has had to leave us to move back to Manchester. Those staff who have gained promotion elsewhere are; Miss Donovan who has been promoted to Head of PE which we know is her dream job, Miss Shah is gaining promotion to Assistant Headteacher, Ms Williams gaining promotion to Head of Science, Mrs Khatri gaining promotion to Deputy Head of Maths, Mr Eaton taking up Head of Photography at Parliament Hill School only a short walk from his house, and finally Mrs Pocklington who is leaving the profession to spend time with her partner and dog in North Yorkshire.

We also have two support members of staff leaving in Miss Butt (Junior) who is off to train as a Dentist at Queen Mary University of London and Mrs Bott taking time to focus on her tutoring business.

Recruitment of staff in almost all subjects remains a challenge for schools and as such, we are pleased to have recruited well during a difficult period, joining us in September:

Mr Parkin as Deputy Leader of Maths, Ms Yarrow as Teacher of Technology, Mrs Toorab as Teacher of Science, Mrs Payne and Miss Mole as Teachers of PE, Mr Crisp re-joining us as Teacher of Geography, Mr Sylvester as Teacher of Geography, Ms Selleck as Subject Leader of PRE, Mr Roger as Teacher of PRE, Ms Carvalho as Teacher of Art, Mr Scott as Curriculum Leader for KS5, Mrs Sudbery as Deputy Headteacher and Teacher of Chemistry, Ms Jennings as Teacher of Business, Ms Mvelase as Teacher of Science, Mr Ewen as Teacher of Computer Science and finally we welcome back Miss Falconer in Technology. We will take time in our first few editions of the newsletter to introduce these staff in more detail.

As parents will note in the school newsletter, we also welcome back Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Harris following her successful operation. I know in speaking with her personally last week she is really looking forward to returning in September to relight the fires in music with Mrs Warren.

We have also expanded our support staff for September due to an increase in EHCPs and also the growing school numbers with over 58 external students applying for our Sixth Form this year alone. We welcome to the school the following Ms Lewis as Teaching Assistant, Mr Cotter as Senior Science Technician, Mr Bridge as our internal English Tutor, and Mrs Jones as our internal Maths Tutor. Mr Raine following his successful apprenticeship this year will move into the learning support department as a teaching assistant, and we are in the final stages of appointing 2 more teaching assistants shortly for September now we know the full needs of our incoming year 7 students in detail.

Timing of School Day:

With a significantly oversubscribed and growing school, we need to try new ways of operating to see if they improve the student experience especially during social times and a direct link in this case around queuing at break and lunch. We note most students buy food at break times and as such we are going to slightly alter the timing of the school day by moving 5 minutes off lunch and adding 5 minutes to break time to see if this supports the student feedback. The window of the school day will not change in any other way. We will review this at Easter to see if this improves the student experience. We also hope once the pitch which will come online in January will also relieve some pressure from the internal buildings at social times.

Start of Term arrangements:

On Monday 4 September 2023, we welcome year 7 students **only** from 8.40am – 11.10am, the bus services will be running at these times. We will also welcome Year 12 students **only** for Sixth Form enrolment from 11.30am-12.30pm.

Tuesday 5 September 2023 the whole school returns, please ask your children to bring their smiles back with them as we have school photographs on this day.

Wednesday 6 September 2023 we would like to invite Sixth Form students and their parents to our 'Welcome to the Sixth Form Event'. At 18.30 – 19.30

Thursday 7 September 2023 is Year 7 team building day for students followed by a Year 7 parents welcome event in the evening at 19.00pm.

Friday 15 September 2023 will see the whole school, community walk event.

Finally, please can I ask all parents to ensure that every student returns in September with the correct uniform including new school shoes if necessary, all equipment as per Mr Shaw's letter, including a small set of highlighters to support metacognition and revision techniques in their learning and finally on time with a positive mindset to ensure the first day is an extremely positive one for all involved.

I hope all families have a great summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Kind regards



Mr D Fisher
Headteacher